

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 H-01 INR-07 L-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-05

MC-01 NEA-06 /061 W

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R 061520Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1087

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 2817

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MMOL, RP, FR, MY

SUBJECT: DISSIDENTS USING FRENCH AMMUNITION IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

REF: USDAO MANILA IR 6-877-0011-75, 6 FEB 75

1. FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE, COL. LOUSSOUARN, WHO NORMALLY RESIDENT JAKARTA, IS CURRENTLY MAKING SHORT PERIODIC VISIT TO MANILA. DURING COURSE OF VISIT, HE HAS BEEN SHOWN FRENCH MANUFACTURED, BT FUZED, 81-MM MORTAR ROUNDS WHICH HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES IN COTABATO. MORE THAN 100 OF THESE ROUNDS (WHICH ARE AN EXPENSIVE MODEL WHOSE PROXIMITY FUZE PRODUCES AN AIR BURST) HAVE BEEN FIRED AGAINST CEMCOM HEADQUARTERS ON PC HILL, COTABATO CITY, DURING PAST FEW MONTHS.

2. LOUSSOUARN HAS CHECKED SERIAL NUMBERS ON CAPTURED ROUNDS AND HAS DISCOVERED THEY ARE FROM LOT "RECENTLY" SOLD TO GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA. FRENCH ABASSADOR, TO THE
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OBVIOUS EMBARRASSMENT OF LOUSSOUARN, ADVISED ME OF THIS

FACT DURING DINNER PARTY AT HIS RESIDENCE MARCH 5. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER FILIPINOS WERE INFORMED OF THIS FACT, AMBASSADOR REPLIED CRPTICALLY, "THEY DON'T WANT TO KNOW THIS OFFICIALLY."

3 LOUSSOUARN WENT ON TO EXPRESS OPINION THAT GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA MUST BE OFFICIALLY SUPPLYING THIS EXPENSIVE AMMUNITION TO SECESSIONIST FORCES IN MINDANAO, SINCE QUANTITIES INVOLVED COULD HARDLY HAVE "LEAKED" OUT OF MALAYSIAN ARSENALS. CONVERSATION JOINED AT THIS POINT BY SPANISH AMBASSADOR, WHO EXPRESSED BEWILDERMENT AT MALAYSIAN POLICY, SINCE IT WOULD SEEN EVENTUALLY TO ENCOURAGE SECESSION MOVEMENT IN SABAH.

4.COMMENT: IN VIEW RATHER WIDESPREAD DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS, IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT PHILIPPINE MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE THAT FRENCH/MANUFACTURED WEAPONS IN SECESSIONSIT HANDS (WHICH THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY ASSUMED WERE COMING FROM LIBYA) ARE, INSTEAD, COMING FROM SHIPMENTS WHICH WERE PURCHASED BY THEIR MALAYSIAN NEIGHBORS.

SULLIVAN

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